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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHC #4569 3292209  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P R 242203Z NOV 08  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY 8763  
INFO RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFIS/NO JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS STATE 124569

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM PINR PREL PTER KCRM SNAR MARR RP  
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT CLEARANCE FOR PHILIPPINES LEEAHY VETTING REQUEST -  
JIATF-WEST LEATHER PISTON 09-1

REF: MANILA 2548

¶1. (SBU) The Department of State reviewed its files and found that, as of this date, it possesses no credible information of gross violations of human rights for the units and commanders identified below. These units and commanders are candidates for participation in the JIATF-West Leather Piston 09-1 program that starts January 19, 2009 and ends February 27, 2009 in La Union, Philippines.

¶2. (U) Units and Commanders:

Unit: 1st Regional Maritime Office, Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group  
Commander: PSSUPT Samuel Sylim, DOB: March 20, 1961  
POB: Philippines

Unit: Naval Special Operations Unit 2  
Commander: CDR Carlos Y. Garcia, DOB: October 22, 1965  
POB: Tarlac, Philippines

Unit: Philippine Coast Guard Group, Northern Luzon  
Commander: CAPT Athelo L. Ybanez, DOB: March 29, 1963  
POB: Cebu, Philippines

Unit: PNP, Region 1  
Commander: PCSUPT Luizo C. Ticman, DOB: October 10, 1951  
POB: Manila, Philippines

Unit: Bureau of Customs, Region 1 Anti-Terrorism Task Force  
Commander: LTCOL Angelito Santiago, DOB: June 6, 1948  
POB: Manila, Philippines

Unit: National Bureau of Investigation Anti-Illegal Task Force  
Commander: Roel S. Bolivar, DOB: May 4, 1962  
POB: Palawan, Philippines

Unit: Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Region 1  
Commander: PSUPT Robert Opena, DOB: June 25, 1957  
POB: Bataan, Philippines

¶3. (U) Post may provide the following statement to authorized parties: Embassy verifies that the Department of State possesses no credible information of gross violations of human rights by the units and commanders identified in paragraph 2 above, as of this date. Post may cite this cable in response.

¶4. (U) If, in the future, post becomes aware of possible human rights violations by the units and commanders listed above, post should inform the Department and not proceed with training.

¶5. (U) POC for this action is Jameson DeBose:  
-Email: DeBoseJL@state.gov  
-Phone: 202-647-2989  
RICE